

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for managing the use of electronic content, the system including:

an electronic appliance for (a) receiving encoded content and encoded control information, the encoded control information specifying, at least in part, how a decoded version of the encoded content may be used, and (b) rendering the encoded content and the encoded control information through an output of the electronic appliance, the output of the electronic appliance being designed to be coupled to an output device for presenting content to a user of the electronic appliance;

a retrofitting appliance for (a) accepting the encoded content and the encoded control information from the output of the electronic appliance, (b) decoding, at least in part, the encoded control information to obtain a decoded version of the encoded control information, and ~~(b)~~ (c) using the decoded control information to at least in part govern the use of decoded content corresponding to the encoded content; and

an output device connected to an output of the retrofitting appliance for presenting decoded content to a user of the electronic appliance.

2. (Original) A system as in claim 1, in which the electronic appliance is selected from the group consisting of: CD player, DVD player, video cassette player, and television set-top box.

3. (Original) A method for managing the use of electronic content, the method including:

receiving encoded electronic content and encoded control information at a first electronic appliance, the encoded electronic content and encoded control information forming part of a data signal encoded in a rendering format supported by the first electronic appliance;

rendering the encoded electronic content and encoded control information through the output of the first electronic appliance;

receiving the rendered electronic content and control information at a second electronic appliance;

decoding the rendered electronic content and control information to recover decoded electronic content and decoded control information;

using the decoded control information to determine whether or not to permit at least one use of the decoded electronic content;

transmitting the decoded electronic content to an output device if the at least one use is permitted.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 3, in which the encoded electronic content and encoded control information is are received by the first electronic appliance in digital format, and in which the rendered electronic content and control information ~~comprises~~ comprise an analog signal.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 4, in which decoding the rendered electronic content and control information includes:

performing an analog-to-digital conversion on the rendered
electronic content and control information to obtain a digital signal.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 5, in which decoding the rendered
electronic content and control information further includes:

decrypting the digital signal to obtain a decrypted digital signal.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 5, in which decoding the rendered
electronic content and control information further includes:

applying an error-correction transformation on the digital signal.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 6, in which decoding the rendered
electronic content and control information further includes:

decompressing the decrypted digital signal.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 3, in which the first electronic
appliance is selected from the group consisting of: television set-top
box; compact disc player; digital versatile disc player; cellular
telephone; personal digital assistant; and personal computer.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 3, in which the encoded
electronic content and encoded control information is are received by
the first electronic appliance in a format selected from the group
consisting of: Red Book CD format; MPEG-1 format; MPEG-2 format;
MPEG-3 format; MPEG-4 format; and DVD format.

11. (New) A system for managing the use of electronic content
comprising:

a fixed content delivery channel having an input and an output, the
fixed content delivery channel being operable to accept an input

signal at said input, and to process the input signal to obtain an audio and/or video output signal renderable by a rendering device capable of being connected to the output;

a rendering device configured to be connected to the output of the fixed content delivery channel and to render audio and/or video signals received from the fixed content delivery channel to users of the fixed content delivery channel; and

a retrofitting appliance configured to intercept an audio and/or video signal communication between the fixed content delivery channel and the rendering device, the communication comprising encoded content and at least one rule, the retrofitting appliance being operable to decode the encoded content, and, in accordance with the at least one rule, selectively transmit the decoded content to the rendering device for presentation to a user.

12. (New) A system as in claim 11, wherein the fixed content delivery channel is selected from the group consisting of: CD player, DVD player, video cassette player, cellular telephone; personal digital assistant; personal computer and television set-top box.
13. (New) A system as in claim 11, wherein the encoded content and at least one rule is received by the fixed content delivery channel in a format selected from the group consisting of: Red Book CD format; MPEG-1 format; MPEG-2 format; MPEG-3 format; MPEG-4 format; and DVD format.
14. (New) A system as in claim 11, wherein the fixed content delivery channel consists of a television set-top box, and wherein the rendering device consists of a television.

- 15.(New) A system as in claim 11, wherein the encoded content is delivered separately from the at least one rule.
- 16.(New) A system as in claim 11, wherein the encoded content is delivered with the at least one rule.
17. (New) A system as in claim 15, wherein the encoded content is received at the fixed content delivery channel after the at least one rule.
- 18.(New) A system as in claim 15, wherein the encoded content is received at the fixed content delivery channel before the at least one rule.
- 19.(New) A system as in claim 11, wherein the communication is decrypted by the retrofitting appliance prior to being transmitted to the rendering device.
- 20.(New) A system as in claim 11, wherein the retrofitting appliance performs analog-to-digital conversion and re-sampling on the communication prior to transmitting the decoded content to the rendering device.